

received this honor and declined the opportunity to remain stateside, returning instead to the Fifth Division of the Marines. On the Nineteenth of February, 1942, Sergeant John Basilone completed his final mission at Iwo Jima.

Born in Buffalo, NY, to Salvatore and Dora Basilone, John was one of ten children. From his early days as a boxer to his final stand as a gunnery sergeant, it was evident that he possessed a unique spirit of strength, dedication, and determination. His heroism was recognized nationally with the highest military honors, and he posthumously received the Navy Cross, three bronze stars, a Purple Heart, as well as the World War II Victory Medal.

As a fellow American sharing Basilone's Italian heritage, it is my honor to celebrate the legacy of a man so committed to defending the cherished ideals of this Nation. Commemorating our Nation's heroes and veterans remains vital to keeping this country's tradition of freedom intact.●

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH BIRTHDAY OF KOOL-AID

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, few childhood experiences span the generation gap as successfully as Kool-Aid. Many of today's business leaders started down the road to financial success by standing at a folding table in their front yard selling one-cent cups of refreshing Kool-Aid.

While the business of Kool-Aid now spans front yards around the globe, I am pleased to say that the very first Kool-Aid entrepreneur was a Nebraskan.

Edward Perkins had a curious young mind and at age 11 he began experimenting; transforming the back of his father's mercantile store in Hendley, NE, into a flavor factory. The early experience he gained would come in handy 27 years later in Hastings, NE, when Perkins created Kool-Aid. The delicious drink was a hit and quickly became a household name.

The story of Kool-Aid is the perfect illustration of the value of perseverance. Perkins was dedicated to his business and worked hard as an innovator for many years before finally creating the drink that would make him famous, and Hastings, famous.

Hastings celebrates Kool-Aid days with the world's largest Kool-Aid stand every August. They also show their Nebraskan hospitality by serving Kool-Aid at rest stops throughout Nebraska. There are currently 22 flavors of Kool-Aid and it is no wonder that the current best seller, Tropical Punch, has a Husker red color glow to it.

For all these reasons and many more I am proud that Kool-Aid is the official State soft drink of Nebraska and wish it a very happy 75th birthday.●

HONORING REBECCA COLTEY

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Madam President, I rise today to pay

tribute to the "New Hampshire Star of Life." Rebecca Coltey has been chosen by her peers as someone deserving of the New Hampshire's Star of Life award.

It is the thankless service of emergency medical personnel like Rebecca that save so many lives in a normal day of work.

Rebecca Coltey, of Rockingham Regional Ambulance, is recognized by her colleagues for her outstanding work ethic and professionalism towards everyone. Rebecca's future looks even brighter as she begins planning her wedding, set for September.

Rebecca deserves great praise for the work she does. The selfless dedication she gives to her career in serving the needs of others in their most vulnerable time is a great asset to her character. New Hampshire applauds this fine individual for a job well done.

It is an honor and privilege serving Rebecca in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE CROMBIE

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. George Crombie, Public Works Director for the City of Nashua. Named one of the Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year by the American Public Works Association, George has played a prominent role in the betterment of his community.

As Director of Public Works for the City of Nashua, George manages a full-service public works division including engineering, traffic and parking, streets, wastewater, solid waste, and parks and recreation. His primary focus has been on instituting comprehensive public works management systems including the development of a senior management team, finance and budgeting principles, employee education and safety, time line management and capital development.

Many of George's projects have focused on the environment. He recently led the City through the Multi-Site Landfill Closure and Park Renovation Project which provides state-of-the-art closure and post-closure refuse to five former City landfills, as well as construction of one of New Hampshire's few publicly owned and operated lined landfills. George is also credited with contributing to the APWA Reporter by writing an article commending the New York City Sanitation Department's cleanup of the World Trade Center.

I applaud the dedicated efforts in public service that George Crombie has demonstrated throughout his distinguished career. George is a positive example in leadership for all to follow. The City of Nashua is privileged to have such a dedicated public servant working for the community. I wish him continued success in the coming years, and thank him for his contributions to New Hampshire. It is an honor to represent you in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN HUMBERT "ROCKY" VERSACE

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Madam President, I rise today to honor Captain Humbert Roque "Rocky" Versace, U.S. Army. On Monday, 8 July 2002, Captain Rocky Versace will be awarded posthumously the Congressional Medal of Honor for service in the Viet Nam war.

On 29 October 1963, Captain Versace, along with First Lieutenant Nicholas Rowe, was captured in South Vietnam. Taken prisoner by the Viet Cong, he demonstrated exceptional leadership, resolute adherence to the Code of Conduct and unflagging faith in his country. Captain Versace ultimately sacrificed his life rather than betray his country and the Viet Cong executed him in September 1965 as he set an example of an American officer that the Viet Cong could not tolerate. Captain Versace died upholding the military creed of Duty, Honor, Country.

I want to recognize Captain Versace through the words of his fellow captive, Nick Rowe, who escaped from captivity to freedom on 31 December 1968. Nick Rowe remained in the Army, rose to the rank of Colonel, and continued to serve in Special Forces until April 1989, when he was assassinated by the communist New People's Army in Manila, Philippine Islands. His captivity memoir, "Five Years to Freedom" was published in 1971 and contains this tribute. The tribute follows:

NICK ROWE'S TRIBUTE TO ROCKY VERSACE

He stood as others dream to stand;
He spoke as others dared not even think;
From soul deep faith, he drew his courage,
his granite spirit, his ironclad will.
The Alien force, applied with hate,
could not break him, failed to bend him;
Though solitary imprisonment gave him no friends,
he drew upon his inner self to create a force so strong
that those who sought to destroy his will,
met an army
his to command.
Phrases of his I shall not forget,
spoken sincerely, filled with truth:
All I wish is to return to family, home and those I love;
For I am young and life is dear,
but to bargain for this life of mine when the price you ask
requires of me to verify a lie
and sell my honor short,
makes clear the choice between the two;
a life with honor, a life without;
With me, you see, life without honor is no life at all,
So I will not comply with what you require
and choose to suffer
whatever may come.
This is my answer at this time,
this is my answer in times to come;
I only pray that I shall not weaken, for I am right
and with God's help, I will have the strength
to resist whatever means you use
while attempting to fulfill your evil scheme.
Thus his fate was surely sealed,
for such a man, standing firm
defeated them on their own ground
and for him to live and tell of this
was a thing that could not be.
I saw him not the day he died,